

**COMMENTS FROM COMMUNITY & REGENERATION
(Health & Wellbeing)**

TO: Mrs C Turner

FROM: David Chennell – Health & Wellbeing Officer

DATE: 19/10/2021

Application No: WD/2021/2198/MAO

Parish: Framfield

OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE ERECTION OF UP TO 290 DWELLINGS, ASSOC. LANDSCAPING, INFORMAL OPEN SPACE AND STRATEGIC SANG WITH ACCESS FROM THE B2102 - LAND AT BIRD IN EYE FARM, SOUTH OF BIRD IN EYE HILL, FRAMFIELD, TN22 5HA

In 2017, Wealden District Council adopted its three year Health and Wellbeing strategy to address three key health themes;

- Obesity
- Physical inactivity
- An increasingly ageing population creating a series of additional needs.

In 2021, an interim Health and Wellbeing Strategy replaced the earlier strategy and this looks to support the restart and recovery of the districts leisure, sport and physical activities. It also aligns to the Councils' Corporate Plan 2019-23 – District of Opportunity. This document highlights the need to make the following improvements in Wealden from 2019 – 2023:

- Promote a better quality of life for Wealden people through activities that improve health, resilience and well-being.
- Encourage and promote better leisure, sporting and recreational facilities across the District.
- Support initiatives to address changing health needs across the District, including work on dementia and social isolation.
- Seek opportunities to invest in more modern GP surgeries and local health hubs in Wealden

The health and wellbeing of Wealden's residents is not only pivotal to living a happier, healthier and potentially longer, more fulfilled life, it also has an impact to the District's economy, prosperity and in terms of generating income and investment in helping to maintain and enhance local services and amenities.

It is crucial to ensure local housing, leisure amenities and play provision is provided as part of any new housing development, so residents have the opportunity to live a healthier lifestyle. This can be achieved by using exemplars of good design and following national guidance and recommendations.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published in 2019, states how the planning system should plan positively to achieve healthy places and provide the social, recreation and cultural facilities and services the community needs.

Our comments are in relation to the public outdoor space and physical activity provision proposed in this application.

From a health and wellbeing perspective, we are pleased to see that this proposed new development includes a walking route (parameter footpath), cycle racks and substantial public open space both in the form of a Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and other areas of public open space ancillary to the housing areas, as part of the proposal.

Research shows that spending time in green space and having access to good-quality, well-maintained public spaces can help to improve our physical health by encouraging us to be more active by walking and cycling more, to play sports, or simply to enjoy a natural environment. Being outdoors in a natural environment can also help our mental wellbeing and increases confidence, social interaction, improves moods and reduces anxiety and depression.

Having access to open space and physical activity facilities is essential in maintaining and improving the health and mental wellbeing of residents. We therefore support the inclusion of such facilities and open space within this application.

End.

Please Note: The Community and Regeneration Team only comment on proposals in relation to the impact on health and wellbeing and not on any environmental impact or other type of planning matter. It is for the local planning authority to consider all the relevant planning matters and make a recommendation/decision accordingly.